

REMARKS

Applicant hereby amends the application where appropriate and responds to the various rejections.

Office Action Par. 2 - Drawing Objection

Amended Figure 1 is believed proper in its present form and fully supported by the specification in view of the knowledge of the skilled artisan. The original specification in Paragraph 29 disclosed that "The weapon 1 is placed in this activated state by the unlocking of an electromechanical locking mechanism (not illustrated) or similar safety mechanism." Paragraph 0013 also references the electromagnetic mechanism. Such electromechanical locking mechanisms are known in the art.

While 37 CFR 1.83 and MPEP Section 608.02(d) recognize the requirement to illustrate claimed features, 37 CFR 1.83 also dictates that "conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed understanding is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol..". Amended Figure 1 is exactly this.

An electromechanical locking mechanism is known in the art. For example, amended Figure 1 illustrates the electromechanical locking mechanism 26 in substantially the same manner as the release element 15 in the gun as shown in Figure 1 of the Riener '642 patent which release element 15 is essentially considered an equivalent structure in the Office Action. Notably, the Riener '642 reference itself does not provide any significant detail as to the release element 15, undoubtedly since it is a known feature well understood by the skilled artisan. If Riener is to be considered an adequate disclosure, then this level of illustration must be considered adequate. Hence, Figure 1 illustrates all that is required under 37 CFR 1.83 and withdrawal of the drawing objection is believed proper.

Further, it is noted that the box can diagrammatically represent any such mechanism, which mechanisms are conventionally would be located in the slide area which is that area in which the firing components are located such as the trigger and firing pin. Hence, diagrammatically showing a locking mechanism in this manner is believed adequate. In support, it is noted that other prior art of record diagrammatically use a box to show such mechanisms, generally in the area of the slide which includes the trigger area. While there may be small variations in the location of the box, Applicant has used a representative location as opposed to showing variations of Figure 1 with the boxes shown in minutely different locations.

Approval of Figure 1 is requested.

Office Action Paragraph 3 - Specification Objection

The Office Action asserts that various instances and usages of claim terms do not have antecedent basis and the claims somehow are unclear. While the claims are believed completely clear in conformance with US patent standards, one more attempt is made to address the numerous questions raised in the office action.

As to the specific objections, Applicant has the following comments.

The Office Action states that:

"claim 7 recites, "an inactive state which prevents firing". However, the specification refers to an inactive weapon as one being "locked". It does not mention anything about a weapon in an inactive state which prevents firing and an active state which permits firing."

Applicant respectfully traverses and notes that the specification specifically supports the claim language.

As to the terms "inactive state" and "prevents firing", Paragraph 0031 recites that "...the microprocessor 18 deactivates the weapon 1, thus placing the weapon in a state in which it is prevented from firing." The very dictionary definition of "deactivate" is "to render inactive" or "to

lock..." per the attached dictionary printout, such that this reference to a "state" clearly refers to the inactive state, which is that state where the weapon is prevented from firing. Paragraph 0031 is now amended to specifically recite "inactive state" rather than just "state" for expediency. Paragraph 0019 also recites that the weapon "becomes inactive, or locked" which clearly indicates that inactive and locked refer to the same state of the weapon.

It also is noted that Paragraph 0007 refers to the "activation state", and Paragraph 0017 refers to both the inactive state and the active state which are the states of readiness of the weapon. Paragraph 0015 refers to the weapon being "inactive in the initial state" which is now amended to "inactive in the initial state, i.e. initial inactive state."

Of course, the opposite of inactive is active, and also to clearly overcome the above-discussed objection: Paragraph 0007 is amended to also refer to active state in addition to "activation state" already recited therein; Paragraph 0015 is amended to supplement the disclosure that "the identification mechanism and the weapon are inactive in the initial state" by repeating that this initial state for the inactive weapon is the "inactive state"; and Paragraph 0016 is amended to reiterate that the state of readiness to fire is the "aforementioned activation or active state".

As also can be seen, the term "prevent" is used in association with the inactive state and is used in the original specification. The opposite of "prevent" is "permit" per the attached dictionary printout. Paragraph 0029 is amended to include this specific terminology so as to recite that the weapon is in other words, placed "in the active state which permits firing of the weapon".

Next, the Office Action questions "where in the specification is there recited an activation code?" First it is noted that this language has been in the claims for an extended period and the Examiner's comments themselves have used this terminology without question. It is inherent that a

coded signal would carry a code. The current objection therefore is belated and not understood at this late stage of examination.

As to the inherent existence of an activation code in a coded activation signal [see the last sentence of Paragraph 0016], it is believed that this term is supported by the specification. But to avoid further disagreement as to such term, various claims are amended to eliminate the reference to "activation code" and these claims now move forward with coded activation signal which has specific antecedence in the specification. Paragraph 0016 is also amended to state that an "activation signal" that may be a "coded signal" can alternatively be referenced as a "coded activation signal".

As to the question of where the term "continuous signal" is located, this is the continuous signal 19 specifically referenced in Paragraph 0032 as well as in Paragraph 0031.

As to the phrase "maintaining the weapon in the active state **exclusively dependent** upon the monitored strength of the continuous signal being at or above a minimum signal strength", this is fairly clearly disclosed in Paragraphs 0007, 0008, and 0009 with Paragraph 0008 stating "exclusively dependent" and 0007 stating "depends exclusively".

As to the question as to "solely monitoring the strength of the continuous signal", Paragraph 0030 discloses that the distance is "continuously monitored", with Paragraph 0031 discloses that the continuous signals and field strength serve as this distance monitoring function. Naturally, these disclosures teach that the signal strength would be continuously monitored. Hence, as to Paragraphs 0008 and 0030 and the others cited above, the combined teachings teach that monitoring of the continuous signal occurs.

Further, the process is exclusively dependent upon this distance measuring wherein the term "solely" is the definition of "exclusively" per the attached dictionary definition. Hence, it is entirely proper to state that maintaining the readiness to fire or equivalently, avoiding deactivation of

the weapon is accomplished solely by monitoring the signal strength of the continuous signal. Paragraph 0008 is amended to specifically recite solely as an alternate term for exclusively.

As to the interfering transmitter referenced in some claims, Paragraph 0009 states that since only the signal strength is important, the readiness to fire cannot be disturbed (such as being deactivated) by an interfering transmitter. Hence, the claim language is fully supported by the specification.

In this regard, it is noted that MPEP Section 608.01(o) alternatively refers to clear support or antecedence basis in the specification. Hence, clear antecedence is one option for satisfying the requirement or alternatively, clear support need only be found even if direct antecedence is not present. Hence, the specification does in fact provide either antecedent basis or clear support. Based upon the foregoing, withdrawal of the objections to the specific language discussed above is requested.

As to Paragraph 5, the undersigned respectfully disagrees that the scope of claims is in any sense unclear in view of the clear teachings of the specification.

As to Paragraph 6, the claims are fully supported by the specification, and the correspondence between such claims and specification are no less clear than numerous other patent applications and patents in existence. Hence, the requirement for a detailed comparison of the claims and specification is believed unnecessary and unduly burdensome at this stage. Many of the questions as to the sufficiency of disclosure refer to language which directly or at least closely tracks the specification and can be readily ascertained upon a reasonable reading of the specification. Nevertheless, a marked up copy of the claims is attached which addresses the various elements and these marked up claims should be considered in combination with the detailed comments herein.

Office Action Paragraph 7 - New Matter Objection to Fig.

1

The illustration of the locking device in Figure 1 does not add new matter. The existence of electromechanical locking devices and other similar devices are known in the art, and known to the skilled artisan. Reiner itself illustrates a conventional location for such a device, and the rejections themselves rely upon the Reiner release device 15 being a device that is the same as the locking device of the invention. Hence, the reference in Applicant's disclosure quickly would call to mind the location of such a device in the slide/firing pin/trigger area since such devices are conventionally known. Hence, merely adding a diagrammatic box of such a device in the conventional area for such a device merely illustrates that already called to mind by the reference to an electromagnetic mechanism.

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this new matter objection.

Office Action Paragraph 3 (Page 5) - Enablement

Since the drawing amendment to Figure 1 is in question, Applicant further traverses the enablement objection to placing the weapon in the active state or inactive state. MPEP Section 2164 sets out that the test of enablement is whether one reasonably skilled in the art could make or use the invention from the disclosures in the patent coupled with information known in the art without undue experimentation. The skilled artisan therefore is fully aware of Reiner and all other prior art which might disclose an electromechanical locking device or control for the electronics of a weapon using electronic ignition.

It is noted that Paragraph 0013 teaches that the readiness of the weapon to fire, which clearly refers to the active or inactive states of the weapon, occurs through an electromechanical unlocking of the weapon by an electromagnetic mechanism or through activation of the electronics during an electronic ignition. Paragraph 0029

discloses that the weapon is placed in this activated state by the unlocking of an electromechanical locking mechanism or similar safety mechanism. These locking and safety mechanisms are known to the skilled artisan, and the disclosure relies upon the fact that the skilled artisan is fully familiar with how to lock and unlock a mechanism. In fact, Paragraph 0004 calls attention to prior art references which would be known to the skilled artisan including Reiner. The invention is an improved system as compared to the prior art, and hence, builds upon what is known to the skilled artisan.

As MPEP Section 2164.01 specifically states, "a patent need not teach, and preferably omits, what is well known in the art." To thereby object to applicant's disclosure as non-enabling, in fact contradicts the dictates of the MPEP and its' supporting case law. Hence, the disclosure is more than sufficient and no experimentation whatsoever would be required of the artisan to construct Applicant's invention since all that is needed is included.

The Office Action contains the statement that "the disclosure makes no mention of "maintaining the weapon in the active state *exclusively* dependent upon the monitored strength of the continuous signal". However, Paragraph 0008 does use the term "exclusively dependent". Further, the cited statement is merely a rephrasing of Paragraph 0009, lines 5-11 with any changed terms such as "active state" and monitoring of the finding support in the remainder of the description. The active state is the readiness to fire, and the monitored strength is how the active state is exclusively maintained in accord with Paragraphs 0030 and 0031 where the distance is continuously monitored, distance is determined by the field strength, and hence, the field strength must naturally be continuously monitored.

As such, the enablement objections set out in this Paragraph 3 are believed to be improper and based upon a standard of enablement which is not consistent with the MPEP and applicable case law.

Paragraph 4 - Enablement of Claims 26 and 31

Applicant has previously argued and again reiterates that nothing more is required for enablement of the invention than that which is described in the specification. The current rejection almost verbatim repeats the prior rejection, despite Applicant's efforts to cite the specific supporting disclosure found in the specification and the proper standard of enablement to be used. In effect, Applicant has received no reply to such efforts.

Applicant reiterates its prior comments and reasserts that Claims 26 and 31 are enabled.

Paragraph 5 - Written Description Rejection of Claim 30

The continued raising of the rejection is not understood in view of Paragraphs 0005 and 0009 which support this claim. The main point of the invention is that the system avoids difficulty from interfering transmitters since Claim 30, however, is further amended to clarify that avoiding deactivation by the interfering signal occurs when the signal strength is at or above the minimum signal strength. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Paragraphs 6-10 - Section 112 Claim Rejections

The cited claim language is believed fully proper.

As to the phrase "active state", such phrase is in the original disclosure, contrary to the assertion in the office action. The meaning of active state is clear by the original disclosure, and is made clearer still by various new amendments to the specification. Original Paragraph 0017 uses the terms active state and inactive state, and various other sections refer to the activation state and the weapon being inactive in the initial state. The specification is amended for further clarity.

As to what weapon is referenced, it is that weapon referenced in the preamble as the weapon upon which the process is performed. Pursuant to MPEP 2111.02, the preamble is considered when it gives life and meaning to the remainder of the claim which is the present situation. Despite the

propriety of the current claims, Claims 7, 20 and 29 are amended to include a providing step which repeats the definition of the weapon from the preamble and unambiguously defines the weapon in question.

As to "exclusively dependent" referring to the readiness to fire, the term is used when describing the readiness to fire, and the remainder of the application unambiguously teaches the skilled artisan that maintaining the readiness to fire is the condition of the weapon in the activation state or equivalently, the active state of the weapon. The weapon is ready to fire, i.e. is active. Paragraph 0029 teaches that when the weapon is activated, i.e. placed in the active state or unlocked, it is in the state of readiness to fire where firing of the weapon is permitted. Paragraph 0013 teaches that readiness of the weapon to fire can occur by an unlocking of the weapon. The weapon is not ready to fire when it is inactive or locked. The claim language seems clear based upon the specification.

Here again, it is noted that the statement that "there is no mention of active state" (in the specification) is simply incorrect.

As to Paragraph 9 of the Office Action, an attempt is made to assert that a level of detailed disclosure is required that exceeds that actually required by the MPEP and supporting case law. An argument is made that somehow a detailed description is required including the details of the electromechanical mechanism or locking mechanism. This requirement is simply not supported by US patent law.

As has been argued, the weapon incorporates a locking mechanism that is capable of locking/deactivating the weapon and unlocking/activating the weapon. The weapon is placed in the active state by a processor, maintained in such state under specified conditions, and deactivated with the processor when the conditions are no longer met. The skilled artisan by definition is skilled and has a full understanding of conventional locks for weapons. No detail thereof is

required. The listed questions in the office action seem to be an effort to create ambiguity from that which already is clear. The invention claims a method for controlling a weapon between active and inactive states, which method involves monitoring a signal strength, and by this monitoring, maintaining the weapon in the active or activated state exclusively dependent upon the signal strength being above a certain minimum strength. Claims 7, 20 and 29 includes this basic combination and notably are amended to further clarify that by the monitoring of the signal strength, the weapon is maintained active which ties the maintaining step to the monitoring step and precludes the hypothetical scenarios contained in Office Action Paragraph 9.

While hypothetical scenarios are posited in the Office Action, it is noted that activation and deactivation are by the processor and by monitoring the signal strength, the maintaining step occurs solely depending upon the signal strength rather than other factors such as the continuous existence and verification of a coded signal as in the Reiner patent.

The manner in which the activation and deactivation occurs is not required for an understanding of the invention. This is a method of controlling the use of a weapon, with the invention relating to the control method.

As to Paragraph 10 of the Office Action, the maintaining step is not just a desired result. The weapon is in fact maintained in the active state by monitoring the signal strength. It does not depend upon the type of signal, whether coded or uncoded, but upon the strength remaining at a high level to indicate that the appropriate distance is maintained. This is the step of controlling the weapon usage which necessarily occurs between activating and deactivating the weapon.

Based upon the foregoing, all objections and rejections to the specification and claims are believed overcome. Applicant continues to address the numerous and belated

rejections in detail, and continue to believe the application is in condition for allowance.

As to the prior art rejections, Applicant reiterates that Reiner and Funfgelder fail to identically disclose all features of the claimed invention.

As to Reiner, this reference simply does not disclose maintaining a weapon in an active state exclusively dependent upon signal strength. All prior arguments are continued and maintained. Reiner not only requires an adequate distance but also requires continuous existence of a proper coded signal which is checked and verified continuously and simultaneous with the distance measurement. Hence, Reiner does not disclose maintaining a weapon active exclusively dependent upon a signal strength after activation.

Extensive arguments have already been submitted addressing the proper interpretation of the Riener '642 patent, and Applicant reiterates such arguments and will proceed to appeal with such arguments when appropriate.

It is applicant's position that the teachings of the Riener '642 patent must first be properly interpreted as to their meaning to the skilled artisan, before Riener can even be applied as a reference. When properly interpreted, Reiner clearly fails to disclose all features of Applicant's claimed invention.

First, the Office Action asserts that the '652 patent stands alone and is valid for all it contains. As such, the Examiner disregards the published US '976 application despite its disclosure as to the continuous transmission of the identification codes, even during the tracking of distance. Applicant respectfully reiterates that the '976 properly should be considered as relevant to the proper interpretation of the '642 patent, and what the skilled artisan would understand from these publications.

First, MPEP Section 2131.01 states that multiple references may be used as part of a 102 rejection. Extra references may be used to explain the meaning of a term in the

primary reference. This recognizes that the skilled artisan would not read a reference in complete isolation, but would interpret a reference in view of known prior art. In this manner, the primary reference can be interpreted by relying upon other extrinsic evidence. Therefore, as the PTO can use multiple references to formulate a 102 rejection and interpret the disclosure of the reference, it seems Applicant can also rely upon the body of available prior art to interpret a reference being applied by the PTO. This is particularly true when the secondary reference is actually a published application of the very patent being applied, such that the published application would specifically disclose the very invention found in the primary reference.

Further, it seems that Riener made only one invention, namely that invention disclosed in the original application as filed and published, such that the invention disclosed in the issued patent must be that exact invention disclosed in the patent. An interpretation of the issued patent cannot be made which is inconsistent with the invention disclosed in the original application as filed.

Hence, both the '642 patent and the '976 application must be properly construed together.

Further, the actual 102 rejection is based upon the published '880 PCT application, with the '652 patent being asserted as an equivalent. Since the published PCT application contains 53 claims like the '976 application published in the US, it seems that the closest equivalent reference is actually the '976 application.

Further, it seems that the current rejection requires that both the '880 PCT application and the '976 application must be disregarded by the skilled artisan and that the '652 is only being asserted in a vacuum and without any regard as to what the original invention disclosure actually contained. Or in other words, the '880 PCT and '976 applications disclosed one invention, but the Office Action uses a different interpretation of the disclosure using the '652 US

patent. This position therefore attempts to avoid acknowledging what Riener actually invented and what the skilled artisan would understand from the Reiner disclosure. Applicants respectfully submit that this rationale is improper and the full understanding of what the Riener invention comprises cannot be disregarded.

First, the Riener '652 patent actually fails to disclose Applicant's claimed invention. As explained in extensive detail in prior responses, the code 30 is a unique code in a transmission and may be encrypted or decrypted, i.e. coded or uncoded. The use of the term "code" to describe both encryption in Column 10, lines 57-62 and describe the identification code 30 might create some superficial confusion, but a thorough reading of the Riener '652 patent or the '976 application establishes that the identification code 30 must be present at all times in the signal and verified each time, and that this code 30 may be encrypted or not.

The Office Action continues to include the statement that a signal includes an activation code 30 (col. 10, ll. 1-4) or may be uncoded (col. 10, ll. 57-62) while ignoring Applicant's prior arguments that the signal always contains the code 30 even if coded or uncoded, i.e. encrypted or decrypted. Encrypting and coding are two different things according to the Riener '642 patent.

The Office Action also alleges that "Reiner clearly discloses that the constant signal is uncoded and further provides that only the distance is measured after activation." This statement simply is not correct since the distance check and authorized user check are always performed at the same time and must both be met.

The Reiner publications disclose that the code 30 is always transmitted even after decoding. Col. 10, lines 31-34 recite that:

"The identification code 30 is thus encoded prior to transmission by encoding codes and decoded at the other end

using the same encoding code, whereby the original identification code 30 reappears."

Hence, even when decoded, i.e. decrypted, the code 30 exists in the transmission. Hence, the continued statement that the signal may include the code 30 or may be un-coded is only partially accurate in that it must be recognized that the signal always has the code 30 therein.

The code also is sent continually even when the firearm is active. Claim 5 of the '642 patent states that the system is designed for continual or continually consecutive, intermittent signal emission.

Further, the code 30 is always present and always checked. Col. 5, lines 32-35 of the disclosure refer to Claim 5 and indicates that the authorized user check is performed without loss of security of the checking intervals are kept short. Hence, this reference multiple repetitive authorized user checks at short intervals. It is noted that the claims do form part of a disclosure, particularly in this case where the specification specifically refers to and expands upon the claim language. In essence, the specification incorporates the claim language.

Col. 10 further describes how the code 30 is checked.

If both the code 30 and distance are satisfied, the release element 15 is operated.

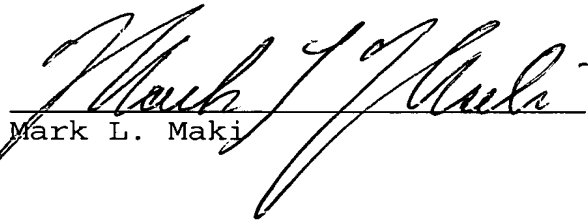
Also, the '976 further confirms that each transmission includes the codes 30. Claim 10 of the '976 patent is the same as patent Claim 5, while claim 10 uses similar language to disclose that the units continually transmit the identification codes 30. As such, the codes 30 must be continually be checked each time received, even after the weapon is able to fire. Therefore, the first condition of having proper codes 30 and continually performing an authorized user check must also be met even after the firearm is operational, which first condition therefore must be simultaneously with the second condition of distance measurement.

Hence, Reiner does not maintain the weapon in active state exclusively dependent upon a distance indicated by signal strength. Rather, Riener is dependent upon multiple conditions, and therefore, does not anticipate any of the pending claims.

Funfgelder also clearly discloses that it relies upon multiple conditions as argued previously at length. The current rejection has not addressed Applicant's prior arguments and further comment is not required other than to reiterate all prior comments as to this reference.

Based on the foregoing, all rejections based upon Riener and Funfgelder are believed deficient and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejections is requested. Allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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*limited recognition number

Encl: Definition of "deactivate" and thesaurus from
www.thefreedictionary.com (2 pages)
Definition of "prevent" and antonym from
www.thefreedictionary.com (3 pages)
Definition of "solely" from www.thefreedictionary.com
(2 pages)
Exhibit A - Claim mark-up
Postal card

136.07/05

EXHIBIT A CLAIM MARKUP

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the use of a weapon¹ having a receiver²⁵ and a processor¹⁸ secured thereto, the weapon being actuatable between an inactive state¹ which prevents firing and an active state which permits firing, said method including the steps of:

providing a weapon having a receiver and a processor secured thereto, the weapon being actuatable between an inactive state which prevents firing and an active state which permits firing;

identifying an authorized user by an identification unit that is separate from the weapon;

transmitting from an said identification unit that is separate from the weapon a coded activation code and a continuous signal after the activation code is transmitted signal, which indicates identification of an authorized user for the weapon, to change said weapon from said inactive state to said active state and a continuous signal after the coded activation signal is transmitted in order to thereafter maintain said weapon in said active state;

receiving with the receiver the coded activation code signal and then the continuous signal transmitted by the identification unit;

with the processor, placing the weapon in the active state from the inactive state when the receiver receives the coded activation code signal;

after said step of placing the weapon in the active state, monitoring the signal strength of the continuous signal received by the receiver;

by said monitoring, maintaining the weapon in the active state exclusively dependent upon the monitored strength of the continuous signal being at or above a minimum signal strength and regardless of a frequency of the continuous signal or either the presence or absence of the coded activation code signal, so as to avoid a deactivation of the readiness of

EXHIBIT A

[90008; 90009; 90030]
the weapon to fire by an interfering transmitter solely by monitoring the strength of the continuous signal, and deactivating the weapon with the processor if the strength of the monitored continuous signal falls below the minimum strength. [90031; 90014]

8. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein:

prior to said steps of transmitting the coded activation ~~code~~ signal and the continuous signal from the identification unit, entering into the identification unit an identification code; [90016; 90026]

with the identification unit, comparing the entered identification code to an identification code in the identification unit; and [90016; 90028]

only if the entered identification code is the same as the identification code in the identification unit, performing said steps of transmitting the coded activation ~~code~~ signal and the continuous signal from the identification unit. [90016; 90028]

9. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, in said step of entering the identification code into the identification unit, the identification unit reads biometric data from an individual. [90012]

10. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering the identification code into the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into the identification unit through a fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit. [90012]

11. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering the identification code into the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into

EXH. A

the identification unit through a CCD fingerprint reader⁵ [40026]
attached to the identification unit. [40012]

12. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein:

a wristband⁴ is attached to the identification unit² for holding the identification unit to an individual and the identification unit includes a switch¹⁴ for indicating if the wristband is closed; and [40012; 40027; 40015]

the identification unit includes an identification unit processor⁹ for performing said step of comparing the entered identification code to the identification code in the identification unit¹ and the switch is connected to the identification unit processor⁹ for actuating the identification unit processor only when the wristband is closed. [40012]

13. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein the continuous signal¹⁹ comprises a radio signal transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and [40018]

said step of monitoring the strength of the continuous signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the radio signal. [40019]

14. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the continuous signal¹⁹ comprises a radio signal transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and [40018]

said step of monitoring the strength of the continuous signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the radio signal. [40019]

15. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the coded activation ~~code~~ signal¹⁶ and the continuous signal¹⁹ are selected from a group consisting of infrared signals and ultrasound signals. [40008]

EXH. A

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the continuous signal comprises an uncoded signal. [40018]

18. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, including, after the weapon is in the active state, transmitting a readiness signal from the weapon to the identification unit and displaying the state of readiness of the weapon on the identification unit. [40017; 40034]

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the use of a weapon which is actuatable between an initial inactive state which prevents firing and an active state which permits firing, comprising the steps of:

See Above [40028] [40029] providing a weapon which is actuatable between an initial inactive state which prevents firing and an active state which permits firing;

providing an identification mechanism that is separate from the weapon and carried by a user authorized to use said weapon, the identification mechanism including a transmitter having a transmitting antenna, [40028] [40031]

providing a module on the weapon comprising a receiver having a receiving antenna and a processor, [40029]

detecting an authorized user with the identification mechanism to authorize operation of the weapon, [40028]

transmitting from the identification mechanism using the transmitter and the transmitting antenna, upon detecting an authorized user, a coded activation signal including an activation code followed by an uncoded signal wherein the coded activation signal signals the detection of an authorized [40029; 40016] [40031]

EXH. A

user to effect a change in state of said weapon from said inactive state to said active state;

using the receiver²⁵ having the receiving antenna¹⁷ to detect the coded activation signal¹⁶ and the uncoded signal¹⁹;

placing the weapon in the active state by said processor upon receipt of ~~the activation code with~~ the coded activation signal to permit firing of the weapon. [¶ 0029; ¶ 0016]

monitoring a signal strength of the uncoded signal received by the receiver; [¶ 0030; ¶ 0031]

responsive to said monitoring, maintaining the weapon in the active state exclusively dependent upon the uncoded signal received by the receiver being at or above a minimum strength¹⁹ and regardless of a frequency of the uncoded signal and of whether an interference signal is received, wherein continued detection of the signal strength at or above said minimum strength exclusively maintains said weapon in said active state and prevents return of said weapon to said inactive state; and [¶ 0008; ¶ 0007] [¶ 0008; ¶ 0007] [¶ 0009; ¶ 0010] [¶ 0008; ¶ 0031]

deactivating the weapon by the processor by returning the weapon to said inactive status state to prevent firing of the weapon once the signal strength of the uncoded signal received by the receiver falls to a level less than the minimum strength during said monitoring. [¶ 0031; ¶ 0014]

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein the uncoded signal comprises an uncoded continuous RF signal and the activation signal comprises an RF signal. [¶ 0018]

23. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon Claim 20, the module including a wake-up circuit for the steps of: [¶ 0014; ¶ 0032]

activating the processor when the receiver receives the activation signal, and [¶ 0032]

EXH. A

deactivating the processor when the received signal has a signal strength less than the minimum signal strength. [90032]

24. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein the identification unit² is integrated into a wristband¹ and the identification unit includes a switch¹⁴ for indicating if the wristband is closed, the identification unit detecting an authorized user and transmitting the activation signal followed by the uncoded signal to place and maintain the weapon in the active state only when the wristband is closed. [90012, 90027, 90015] [90012]

25. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein both the activation signal¹⁶ and the uncoded signal¹⁹ consist of one of infrared energy and ultrasound energy. [90018]

26. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, including the step of displaying the name or the picture of the authorized user on the identification mechanism. [90026]

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the use of a weapon¹ having a module with a receiver and a processor attached thereto, the method comprising:

providing a weapon²⁰ having a module with a receiver and a processor²⁵ attached thereto; [90029]

transmitting from an identification unit that is separate from the weapon and carried by a user authorized to use said weapon, a transmitted signal that comprises a coded activation ~~code~~ signal¹⁶ and a continuous signal after the coded activation ~~code~~ signal; [90029, 90016] [90031]

receiving at the receiver²⁵ a received signal^{16, 19} which comprises the transmitted signal from the identification unit; [90029]

16, 19

EXH. A

monitoring the received signal received by the receiver in the module and, with the processor¹⁸ of the module²⁰, placing the weapon in an activated state to permit firing of the weapon if the received signal includes the coded activation ~~code~~ signal. [40029]

after placing the weapon in the activated state, monitoring a signal strength of the received signal in the module. [40030, 40031]

by said monitoring, maintaining the weapon in the activated state exclusively dependent upon the signal strength of the received signal monitored in the module being at or above a minimum signal strength, and regardless of a frequency of the received signal or the presence or absence of the coded activation ~~code~~ signal in the received signal. [40008, 40007] [40008, 40007] [40008]

~~avoiding~~ wherein said maintaining step avoids a deactivation of the weapon from the activated state by a potential interfering signal from an interfering transmitter¹ provided that the signal strength of the received signal is at or above the minimum signal strength during said maintaining step; and [40009, 40011]

deactivating the weapon with the processor if the signal strength of the received signal falls below the minimum signal strength during said monitoring. [40031, 40014]

30. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, wherein avoiding deactivation of the weapon from the activated state occurs when said signal strength is at or above the minimum signal strength such that the signal strength of the received signal may include a field strength of the potential interfering signal from the interfering transmitter without disturbing a readiness of the weapon to fire in the activated state. [40009, 40011]

31. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, further comprising:

EXH. A

displaying at the identification unit the name or the picture of an authorized user of the weapon.

L12 [P0026]

32. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, wherein the continuous signal comprises an uncoded continuous RF signal and the coded activation ~~code~~signal comprises an RF signal.

L [P0018]

33. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 29, wherein both the coded activation ~~code~~signal and the continuous signal consist of one of infrared energy and ultrasound energy.

L [P0018]



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de·ac·ti·vate (dē-ăk'tī-vāt')

tr.v. de·ac·ti·vat·ed, de·ac·ti·vat·ing, de·ac·ti·vates

1. To render inactive or ineffective.
2. To inhibit, block, or disrupt the action of (an enzyme or other biological agent).
3. To remove from active military status.

de·ac'ti·va'tion *n.*

de·ac'ti·va'tor *n.*

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deactivate

Verb

[-vating, -vated] to make (a bomb or other explosive device) harmless

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Thesaurus

Legend: **S** Synonyms **R** Related Words **A** Antonyms

Verb 1. deactivate - remove from active military status or reassign; "The men were deactivated after five years of service"

muster out, discharge - release from military service

2. deactivate - make inactive; "they deactivated the file"

inactivate

alter, change, modify - cause to change; make different; cause a transformation; "The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"; "The discussion has changed my thinking about the issue"

paralyse, paralyze - make powerless and unable to function; "The bureaucracy paralyzes the entire operation"

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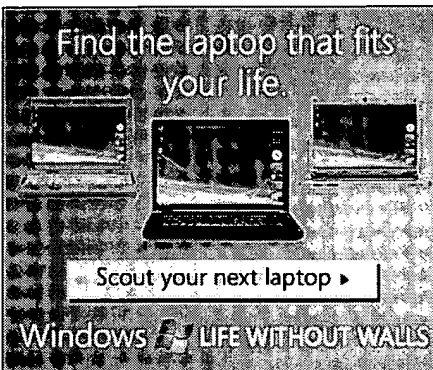
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pre-vent ^{prī-vēnt'}

v. pre-vent-ed, pre-vent-ing, pre-vents
 v.tr.

1. To keep from happening: *took steps to prevent the strike.*
2. To keep (someone) from doing something; impede: *prevented us from winning.*
3. *Archaic* To anticipate or counter in advance.
4. *Archaic* To come before; precede.

v.intr.

To present an obstacle: *There will be a picnic if nothing prevents.*

[Middle English *preventen*, to anticipate, from Latin *praevenīre*, *praeven-*: *prae-*, *pre-* + *venīre*, to come; see *g^{wa}* - in Indo-European roots.]

pre-vent'a-bil'i-ty, pre-vent'i-bil'i-ty *n.*

pre-vent'a-ble, pre-vent'i-ble *adj.*

pre-vent'er *n.*

Synonyms: prevent, preclude, avert, obviate, forestall

These verbs mean to stop or hinder something from happening, especially by advance planning or action. *Prevent* implies anticipatory counteraction: "*The surest way to prevent war is not to fear it*" John Randolph.

To *preclude* is to exclude the possibility of an event or action: "*a tranquillity which . . . his wife's presence would have precluded*" John Henry Newman.

To *avert* is to ward off something about to happen: *The pilot's quick thinking averted an accident.*

Obviate implies that something, such as a difficulty, has been anticipated and disposed of effectively: "*the objections . . . having . . . been obviated in the preceding chapter*" Joseph Butler.

Forestall usually suggests anticipatory measures taken to counteract, neutralize, or nullify the effects of something: *We installed an alarm system to forestall break-ins.*

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prevent

Verb

1. to keep from happening: *vitamin C prevented scurvy*
2. (often foll. by *from*) to keep (someone from doing something): *circumstances prevented her from coming* [Latin *praevenire*]

preventable *adj*

prevention *n*

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
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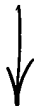
Legend:  Synonyms  Related Words  Antonyms

Verb 1.

prevent - keep from happening or arising; make impossible; "My sense of tact forbids an honest answer"; "Your role in the projects precludes your involvement in the competitive project"

 **foreclose, forestall, preclude, forbid**

 **make unnecessary, save** - make unnecessary an expenditure or effort; "This will save money"; "I'll save you the trouble"; "This will save you a lot of time"

Next
 Page


deflect, fend off, forefend, fend off, head off, avert, stave off, ward off, avoid, debar, obviate - prevent the occurrence of; prevent from happening; "Let's avoid a confrontation"; "head off a confrontation"; "avert a strike"

blockade, obstruct, stymie, stymy, embarrass, hinder, block - hinder or prevent the progress or accomplishment of; "His brother blocked him at every turn"

frustrate, queer, scotch, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, cross, spoil - hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of; "What ultimately frustrated every challenger was Ruth's amazing September surge"; "foil your opponent"

kibosh, stop, block, halt - stop from happening or developing; "Block his election"; "Halt the process"

2. **prevent** - stop (someone or something) from doing something or being in a certain state; "We must prevent the cancer from spreading"; "His snoring kept me from falling asleep"; "Keep the child from eating the marbles"

keep

defend - be on the defensive; act against an attack

keep - hold and prevent from leaving; "The student was kept after school"

keep out, shut out, exclude, shut - prevent from entering; shut out; "The trees were shutting out all sunlight"; "This policy excludes people who have a criminal record from entering the country"

hold - keep from departing; "Hold the taxi"; "Hold the horse"

keep away - prevent from coming close; "I tried to keep the child away from the pool"

blank - keep the opposing (baseball) team from winning

hinder, impede - be a hindrance or obstacle to; "She is impeding the progress of our project"

rain out, wash out - prevent or interrupt due to rain; "The storm had washed out the game"

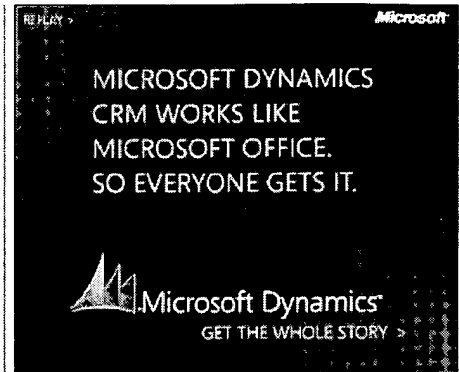
allow, let, permit - make it possible through a specific action or lack of action for something to happen; "This permits the water to rush in"; "This sealed door won't allow the water come into the basement"; "This will permit the rain to run off"

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prevent

verb **stop, avoid, frustrate, restrain, check, bar, block, anticipate, hamper, foil, inhibit, head off, avert, thwart, intercept, hinder, obstruct, preclude, impede, counteract, ward off, balk, stave off, forestall**, defend against, **obviate**, nip in the bud << OPPOSITE **help**

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prevent

v **prevent** [pri'vent]

to stop (someone doing something or something happening) *He prevented me from going.*

n **pre'vention** [-jən]

the act of preventing *a society for the prevention of road accidents.*

adj **pre'ventive** [-tiv]

that helps to prevent illness etc *preventive medicine.*

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When Agamemnon and his followers were sailing away, the ghost of Achilles appeared and tried to **prevent** them by foretelling what should befall them.

Collection Of Hesiod, Homer and Homerica by Homer [View in context](#)

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hinder

keep

preventive

stop

To be sure when we consider that I DID take some pains to prevent my brother-in-law's marrying her, this want of cordiality is not very surprizing, and yet it shows an illiberal and vindictive spirit to resent a project which influenced me six years ago, and which never succeeded at last.
[Lady Susan](#) by [Austen, Jane](#) [View in context](#)

He managed by a skillful handling of his net to retain all the large fish and to draw them to the shore; but he could not prevent the smaller fish from falling back through the meshes of the net into the sea.
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Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth

Prevent Alcohol Risk-related Trauma in Youths

Prevent and Neutralize Drug Abuse

Prevent Blindness America (since 1908)

Prevent Blindness Foundation (Australia)

Prevent Blindness Ohio

Prevent Child Abuse America

Prevent Child Abuse America (since 1972; Chicago, Illinois)

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Prevent Child Abuse of Metropolitan Washington

Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island

Prevent Child Abuse South Carolina

Prevent Child Abuse Utah

prevent defense

prevent defense

prevent defense

Prevent Employers from Seizing Tips (IUGE committee)

Prevent the Bite (dog bite prevention program)

Prevent the World

Prevent Unwanted Pets

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sole·ly (sə'lē, sə'lē)

adv.

1. Alone; singly: *solely responsible*.
2. Entirely; exclusively: *did it solely for love*.

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solely

Adverb

1. only; completely: *an action intended solely to line his own pockets*
2. without others

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Thesaurus

Legend: **S** Synonyms **R** Related Words **A** Antonyms

Adv. 1. solely - without any others being included or involved; "was entirely to blame"; "a school devoted entirely to the needs of problem children"; "he works for Mr. Smith exclusively"; "did it solely for money"; "the burden of proof rests on the prosecution alone"; "a privilege granted only to him"

S alone, exclusively, only, entirely

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solely

adverb **ONLY, completely, entirely, exclusively, alone, singly, merely, single-handedly**

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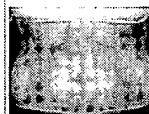
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